

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, Oct. 1st, 1890.

Hon O. C. Bosbyshell
Superintendent

Sir

Referring to the object of Mr. Pratt's visit to the Mint, about which you have asked me for suggestions, I have to say:

Mr. Pratt wishes to effect some arrangement by which unpurified bars from his refinery may be received by the Mint without something for assay. These bars are made from Mexican Silver coin and are of about standard fineness. The fineness of such bars cannot be ascertained from a cutting, by assay, within even a reasonable degree of accuracy. Drillings are misleading even if we were prepared to take samples in this manner. The only means known to us as

liable is the customary method of taking granulations from the molten metal. Mr. Platt makes his assays from such granulations.

To meet Mr. Platt's wishes, and to facilitate his business with the sellers of foreign coin, we should, therefore have to do one of two things, viz;

1st Accept his assay without verification - beyond the slight guide which the examination of a cutting would give. - Aside from the doubtful innovation, it may be said that his assays are only reported in whole numbers - and are not definite and sharply defined enough for guide in sugar making.

2nd Accept from sellers of Bullion, alleged granulations, which are to accompany the invoice, and are certified to pertain to certain Bar numbers.

This was suggested in the Conference this morning and if the proper safeguards can be thrown around the process, it may be entertained. But the liability to confusion on the part of the workmen (and subsequent holders) who have no strong incentive

(31)

To guard the Gov't interest, in taking and accurately transmitting the samples - makes this scheme of doubtful expediency. It should also be borne in mind that considerable time may elapse before these Bars are converted into coin, and any error in fineness then discovered would be open to dispute, even if not beyond reclamation by lapse of time.

I do not see any way clear therefore, to suggest any way of meeting Mr. Platt's wishes while conforming to the plain requirements of the Mint Service.

Respectfully

L. K. Tuttle

M. & R.

[NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 166]

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
Melting and Refining Department,
Philadelphia, October 1, 1890

Hon. O.C. Bosbyshell
Superintendent

Sir

Referring to the object of Mr. Platt's visit to the Mint, about which you have asked me for suggestions, I have to say:

Mr. Pratt wished to effect some arrangement by which unparted bars from his refinery may be received by the Mint without smelting for assay. These bars are made from Mexican Silver coin and are of about standard finery. The finery of such bars cannot be ascertained from a cutting, by assay, within even a reasonable degree of accuracy. Drillings are misleading even if we were prepared to take samples in this manner. The only means known to us as reliable in the customary method of taking granulations from the molten metal. Mr. Platt makes his assay from such granulations.

To meet Mr. Platt's wishes and to facilitate his business with the sellers of foreign coin, we should therefore have to do one of two things, viz;

1st: Accept his assay without verification – beyond the slight guide which the examination of a cutting would give. Aside from the doubtful innovation, it may be said that his assays are only reported in whole numbers – and are not definite and sharply defined enough for guide in Ingot making.

2nd: Accept from sellers of Bullion, alleged granulation, which are to accompany the invoice, and are certified to pertain to certain bar numbers.

This was suggested in the conference this morning and if the proper safeguard can be thrown around the proceeds, it may be sustained. But the liability to confusion on the part of the workmen (and subsequent holders) who have as strong incentive to guard the Gov't interest, in taking and accurately transmitting the samples – makes this scheme of doubtful expediency. It should also be borne in mind that considerable time may elapse before these bars are converted into coins, and any error in finery [?] then discovered would be open to dispute, even if not beyond reclamation by lapse of time.

I do not see any way clear therefore, to suggest any way of resisting Mr. Platt's wishes which conforming to the plain requirements of the Mint service.

Respectfully,
D.K. Twill
M & R